

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the examiner for providing a clearly expressed second Office Action. In this paper, no claims are added or canceled, and pending Claims 11-18 and 20-24 are amended. The amendments to the claims as indicated herein do not add any new matter to this application. Amendments made to the claims as indicated herein have been made to exclusively improve readability and clarity of the claims and not for the purpose of overcoming alleged prior art. Each issue raised in the Office Action mailed June 8, 2004 is addressed hereinafter.

I. ISSUES NOT RELATING TO PRIOR ART

The Office Action does not indicate whether the drawings as filed are acceptable. Review of the drawings and an indication of acceptance are respectfully requested.

The Office Action suggests changing the term “extraction means” to --extracting means-- in all occurrences. The claims incorporate appropriate amendments. Applicant believes that all claims have consistent terminology.

The title and abstract are amended to more accurately reflect the subject matter of the claims.

II. ISSUES RELATING TO PRIOR ART

The claims were rejected as allegedly anticipated and as allegedly obvious in view of prior art. All the rejections addressed structural elements of the claims as formerly presented in apparatus format. However, the claims as amended herein are presented in method format; support for the amended claims is found in at least ¶¶ [0018]-[0020] of the specification and the original Abstract, all of which describe how to use a tool for cleaning a watercraft speedometer, and therefore no new matter is introduced. All the rejections of the Office Action are moot in view of the amendments.

Further, the amended claims are not anticipated or obvious in view of the cited references. None of the references relates to watercraft, or watercraft speedometers, or cleaning

watercraft speedometers. Therefore, the references cannot teach or suggest the subject matter of the amended claims. As indicated by Applicant's Background, previous approaches for cleaning watercraft speedometers all have relied on pressurized air or water, and have not involved the steps recited in Applicant's amended claims, or the use of a tool characterized by the structural limitations of the claims, or the use of the apparatus shown in the cited references.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

No new search should be required. The subject matter of the amended claims is within the scope of Applicant's disclosure, as indicated by ¶¶ [0018]-[0020], and therefore should have been covered in the original search. The presently cited prior art references show tools for a variety of applications, and although these applications are different from Applicant's, the diversity of references demonstrates that references showing methods of cleaning a watercraft speedometer would have been found within the original field of search, if such references exist.

III. CONCLUSIONS & MISCELLANEOUS

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

A petition for extension of time for two (2) months, and otherwise to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If applicable, a law firm check for the petition for extension of time fee is enclosed herewith.

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If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Dated: November 4, 2004



Christopher J. Palermo
Reg. No. 42,056

1600 Willow Street
San Jose, California 95125-5106
Telephone No.: (408) 414-1080 x202
Facsimile No.: (408) 414-1076